

INTELLIGENCE 77

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Approved For Release 2003/08/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R010200320006-1

COUNTRY Poland

SECURITY INFORMATION

TOPIC Polish and Soviet Troops and Military Installations in the Poznan Area

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DATE OF CONTENT 19 to 21 July and 12 to 19 August 1951

DATE PREPARED 7 January 1952

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. From late July to 19 August 1951, the barracks installation near Zwyciestwa Park in Poznan (P 53/X 26) was occupied by Polish troops who wore red service color and were estimated at one battalion. The only vehicles seen in the billeting area were trucks. The installation consisted of one large four-story building and annex, fronting Taborowa ul., and three old two-story stables which were located along Orezna and Promienista Streets and south of the barracks installation. The stables were used as garages and for the storage of supplies.
2. The barracks installation on the south side of ul. Grunwaldzka, between ul. Wojskowa and ul. Ulanska, is composed of a southern and a northern section. Residents stated that the southern section of the barracks installation housed a Polish motorized infantry unit in the strength of one battalion. No heavy weapons were seen there. The buildings in the northern section of the installation were vacant. They included not less than 4 old barracks buildings and several old slightly damaged stables. Craftsmen were seen reconditioning the installation. The yard was overgrown with grass. Soldiers were seen travelling between the southern section of the installation and the barracks installation near Zwyciestwa Park.
3. Another barracks installation was located on the south side of ul. Swierczewskiego, between ul. Polna and ul. Szylinga. All buildings of this installation were in good condition, with the exception of one building at the intersection of ul. Swierczewskiego and ul. Szylinga, which was 50 percent gutted. Soldiers wearing red service color were seen in the eastern section of the installation which appeared to be only slightly occupied as few windows were lighted in the evening. Residents stated that the Polish infantry unit stationed there had moved to a summer camp in May 1951. Soldiers coming and going in the western section of the installation wore caps with green bands and green pentagonal collar patches.
4. Polish military billets were located on the north side of ul. Swierczewskiego, across the street from the installation mentioned in paragraph 3, and bordered by ul. Nawrzymiaka, ul. Jackowkiego and ul. Kraszewskiego. Polish officers were seen coming and going through an entrance on ul. Swierczewskiego, in the southwest corner of the billeting area. No civilians were seen there. One section of the billeting area housed quartermaster clothing shops of the Poznan military post.

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5. Another barracks installation was located on the south side of ul. Grunwaldzka and was bordered by ul. Ulanska, ul. Brottgera and ul. Matejki. The northwestern section, the former Wien Barracks, was destroyed, and the other sections were occupied by KBW (Corps of Internal Security) and Militia personnel. Militia personnel used the entrance on ul. Matejki; KBW personnel entered the southern section of the installation via the destroyed section on ul. Grunwaldzka.
6. A building just east of the barracks installation mentioned in paragraph 3, on the east side of ul. Szylinga and on the north side of ul. Grunwaldzka, was guarded by KBW personnel. According to local residents, the building housed an office [redacted]
7. The northern section of the barracks installation on ul. Golecinska in the Solacz borough was occupied by a Polish tank unit. Ten JG-3 tanks were seen in the billeting area. [redacted]
[redacted]
Residents stated that the unit had many more tanks of the same type. Polish soldiers seen there wore steel-grey uniforms with black pentagonal collar patches and caps with black bands. All buildings and garages of this section were in good condition. [redacted]
[redacted]
Trainees of the tank officers' school were observed marching out in early August 1951, in one column of nine units, with each unit composed of about one company. They wore tank uniforms and, on their collar patches, wore oak leaves with a sword, the insignia of the officers' schools.
8. Some preserved buildings of an old heavily damaged barracks installation were located in the Sw. Wojciech borough on either side of ul. Solna, which was blocked by barriers from ul. Kosciuszki halfway down to the intersection of ul. Mlynska. The barriers were guarded by Polish sentries with red service color. Due to the traffic restriction, no details on the occupation of the buildings could be determined. The occupied buildings border on ul. Kosciuszki.
9. The Zytadela (citadel) on the west bank of the Warthe River in the northern city sector was completely destroyed. No supply installations were noticed there. According to residents, ammunition was stored in the old fort in the fork of the street formed by ul. Taczanowskiego and ul. Podchorazych at the southern perimeter of the Grunwald borough, and in the former fort on the south west side of ul. Lyszeniorska west of the Pogodno borough. The areas of these two installations were overgrown with trees, surrounded by wire fences and designated as military reservations by off-limits signs. No unusual traffic was noticed there. *
10. A hutment, about 300 meters square, was located southwest of Poznan, northwest of the Poznan-Gorzyn railroad station and just southwest of Gorczynski Park. It was guarded by Soviet sentries who wore black epaulets with two crossed golden axes as insignia. [redacted]
[redacted] Timber, rolls of barbed-wire, barrels and some pontoons were noticed in the hutment area.
11. A Soviet unit in the strength of about one company was located in a villa and four low wooden barracks buildings just west of the Zwyciestwa Park, on the south side of ul. Grunwaldzka and between ul. Promienista and ul. Gbozowa. [redacted] Soldiers seen there wore black epaulets with two unidentified tools as insignia devices.
12. A Soviet signal unit of about 200 men was quartered in an installation on the north side of ul. Grunwaldzka, between ul. Skarbka and ul. Ostrorega, not far from the installation mentioned in paragraph 11. Soldiers seen there wore black epaulets and the signal insignia as well as an insignia

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with crossed tools and a lightning cluster. The installation consisted of one large building and some low barracks buildings. A parking lot for trucks extended along the outer side of one of the low barracks buildings. Of 12 trucks parked there, [redacted]

[redacted] More than 100 soldiers assembled in front of the main building in response to mess call. Officers of the unit were billeted in some villas on ul. Ostroroga north of the P' quarters. Some of them wore caps with a red band and others with a black band. Some soldiers of the unit were observed stringing a new wire along the overhead telephone line on ul. Wycerska.

13. Between 12 and 15 August 1951, a Soviet signal unit was observed in the house beside the school building in Piatkowo (P 53/X 26).

* [redacted] Comment. This report substantially confirms barracks installations and military offices in Poznan which were mentioned in reports until the fall of 1950. [redacted] The statements on Polish units approximately correspond with information [redacted] reported an infantry regiment; a tank unit, probably a tank regiment; a tank officers school; and the 10th KBW Fort, stationed in Poznan. [redacted]

** [redacted] Comment. No Soviet combat units are carried in Poznan. The installations mentioned in paragraphs 10 and 11 probably house Soviet storage depots which are guarded by engineer personnel. The Soviet signal unit on the north side of ul. Brumwaldzka and that in Piatkowo are probably responsible for the maintenance of the Berlin-Moscow telephone line. The signal unit in Piatkowo was also mentioned by a resettler in August 1950. [redacted]

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